



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on August 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Tyler Dixon, Kathleen Tucciarone, Keith Phillis, and Mark Lombari. Walter Conklin, Jessica Pflaumer, and Ben Terry were absent.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 18, 2016

The minutes from the regular meeting held on July 18, 2016 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Mr. Phillis to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

2. Report from the Business Survey Workgroup.

The committee has started the process of surveying the village business district, the waterfront business district, and the Metacom Avenue business district. The committee hopes to have the survey completed in the next few weeks. Mr. Phillis said that the committee is realizing that the signage issues may vary depending on the business district due to differences in vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The survey will contribute to the town Comprehensive Plan and to recommendations for the planning board.

3. Discussion of Railroad Avenue revitalization.

Ms. Dionne and Mr. Lombari are working with the town planner, Kate Michaud, and the town manager, Mr. Reitsma, on this effort. The initial project is repairs and repainting for the kiosk. Also, the Mr. Reitsma has asked Union Studio Architecture and Community Design to be involved in the design for improving this public space. Ms. Dionne said that Jonathan Glatt of O & G Design would also be interested in helping with the design plans.

4. Discussion of preliminary planning for continuing wayfinding signage and banner program.

Ms. Dionne said that six banners were originally created for the town. Only three of the banners were installed. Three unused banners are still in storage probably at the DPW offices. Ms. Dionne said that there is town funding available for additional banners. More banners with the "Walk, ride, discover Warren" design could be purchased and installed, hopefully at a lower viewing height for drivers and pedestrians. Also, the board discussed

smaller banners and the impact these would have on Main Street. Mr. Lombardi suggested that the banners could be sponsored by local business owners. Ms. Dionne said that she would contact Ms. Pflaumer regarding how the town of Bristol funds its banner program.

5. Update on new municipal website.

Ms. Dionne reported that the funds for the new municipal website have been approved and allocated. At this time, a contract is being prepared for the project. The committee is beginning to gather photo images for the website.

6. Discussion on strategies for Main Street/Business District improvements.

The board discussed this agenda item in part in the discussion on the banner program. The board also discussed the possibility of a database being made available on the town website to post vacant commercial/retail properties.

The board agreed to take a brief walk to look at the Railroad Avenue kiosk after the meeting adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Volino, the motion was seconded by Ms. Tucciarone, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
September 18, 2016

